



### 1st Street West

James J. Hill was very aware of the corrupt image held by Havre and attempted to “clean up” the town. Hill called for social change claiming Havre’s image tarnished any chance to entice outside investors. For a while, the city did make an attempt to become a reputable town, however, the people of Havre still frequented the many saloons, gambling halls, and the red light district on Havre’s west end of town along First Avenue and First Street. Local entrepreneurs saw the potential the homestead boom could provide and promoted Havre as well. The Havre Industrial Association and the Havre Business Association did their parts to bring settlers to Havre, with promotional slogans such as “Boast-Don’t Knock” and “Do it Habit of Havre” and newspaper ads describing Havre as a “City of Progress.”



### Havre Laundry / Havre Steam Laundry 34 1st Street

Havre Steam Laundry got its start in 1897 by then owner Joseph Gussenhoven. After being burnt out in the fire of 1904, and before he could rebuild, three men formed a corporation, and started the Havre Steam Laundry here. The Havre Steam Laundry continued to grow and expand. By 1929, the Havre Steam Laundry employed 26 people, had two delivery trucks, and offered mail order service. In 1946, Ralph Sleetor bought the business, and the Sleetor family has had an interest in the business every since.



### Hammer’n Hank’s /Valley Motor Supply 115 1st Street

The Hank Tweeten building is a brick structure with its primary facade facing south to First Street (US Hwy #2). The three lots where this building is located have been owned by various people over



the years. Originally, several shacks housed the women of prostitution at this location. The west end lot housed Pacific Hide and Fur around 1912. The newly organized Valley Motors opened at 117 First Avenue in a newly constructed auto display room and garage for Pontiac and Oakland. An adjoining building was constructed around that same year, 1927. In March of 1931, the car line, parts, oil, and gas sales were discontinued and it became Valley Motor Supply, dealing in wholesale auto parts and equipment. In 1958, Valley Motor Supply moved their retail store to 235 West First Street. Northern Tire moved into 115 First Street that same year. The block up to the Ryan building eventually became the Nordling and Tweeten GMC Dealership, now the building is Hammer’n Hank’s Auto Body.



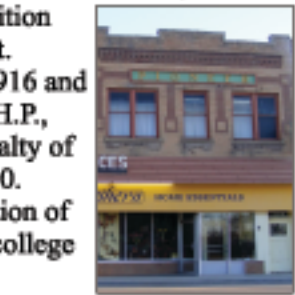
### Ryan Building / Ryan Havre Mercantile Co. 42 2nd Avenue

The services provided by banks and professional offices made up only a portion of the downtown business. To accommodate the grocery needs of the region, foodstuff wholesaler George W. Ryan constructed a large building of Havre brick, at 48 Second Avenue in 1917. A year later, George and Rose Ryan incorporated their Havre store as the Ryan Havre Mercantile Company. The business employed several local people and handled many nationally known lines of canned goods, foodstuffs, and sundries. The territory of the company included all of north-central Montana serviced by local and regional salesmen. Ryan’s operated in this location for several years until they sold in 1974 to Northern Montana Services Industries. In later years, the building was remodeled for offices and as the Downtowner Serve Your Self Furniture.



### Northern Home Essentials / Pioneer Meat Market 218 1st Street

Excavation for this building, planned as a meat market and office building, began the same year as the neighboring Broadwater-Pepin Building in 1906 to replace structures destroyed in the 1904 Fire. Final construction of this brick building with interesting patterns of brick and the word “Pioneer” emblazoned on the front façade was not completed, however, until 1912. Lawrence K. Devlin, a past manager of the Broadwater-McCulloh Company of Fort Assiniboine, had previously operated meat markets in various Havre locations beginning in the 1890s. Devlin purchased the Pioneer Meat Company and had this building constructed with the meat market on the first floor and basement levels and offices on the second floor. The offices were subleased to H.J. Meili, a real estate entrepreneur who developed an addition which includes part of the business district. Devlin was president and manager until 1916 and was a partner in the company with G.W., H.P., and Frank Brown until the H.P. Brown Realty of Great Falls purchased the company in 1930. Frank sold around 44 acres, once the location of a farm and slaughterhouse, for the future college now known as the MSU- Northern.



### Town Square / Havre Hotel Block Between 3rd & 4th Avenues on 1st Street

The main anchor of this block in downtown Havre was the Havre Hotel. Prior to being the Havre Hotel, it was known as the Windsor Hotel. The Windsor Hotel was destroyed by fire in



1898. Shortly after the fire, the Broadwater-Pepin Company, together with Abe and Sam Crosson, organized the Havre Hotel and built a 50-room brick hotel on the same site. The Havre Hotel cost \$30,000 and featured gas lighting, steam heat and porcelain baths. In 1904, the Havre Hotel was one of many downtown buildings lost to this devastating fire. Steps to rebuild were immediate. The new hotel opened March 10, 1905. The Hotel and surrounding businesses would again be taken by fire in the early 1970’s. Today this half block area is the community Town Square, a project of the Havre Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Wells Fargo Bank, Bear Paw Credit Union and many local community members and businesses who contributed to the project to bring it to a reality. Community events, our Farmer’s Market, and a summer music series are hosted in the Square along with the community Christmas Tree lighting.



### 1st Street East.

First Street between Second Avenue and Fourth Avenue served as the main commercial street and Third Avenue became the main avenue. In January of 1904, a fire devastated the business district of Havre. An arsonist started the blaze late in the morning of January 14<sup>th</sup> in the 200 block of First Street. The fire swept through about sixty businesses on First Street between Second and Fourth Avenues. Only the recently-built Security State Bank building on the south side of First Street’s 300 block survived the fire intact. Havre made several changes in the aftermath of the fire. New buildings codes were passed that prohibited the construction of wood frame buildings and required brick or masonry construction with eight-inch thick walls in the commercial district on First Street. A more efficient and better fire department was organized, new water works and sewer systems were planned, and the streets improved. Only two days after the fire, people who had lost their buildings and businesses began making plans to rebuild.

### Hi-Line Radio Fellowship / Havre National Bank 315 1st Street

The Havre National Bank opened on June 14, 1910, with capital of \$50,000 and \$10,000 surplus. Frank Chestnut owned the buildings that originally housed the bank. A major stockholder in the Havre National Bank was Louis J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway. The new building was completed in 1911 and the first floor was devoted to the bank. Massive fixtures and furniture along with marble counters with brass lattice work supported the rich appearance of the “court” at the front of the building, where banking business transactions took place. Havre National Bank relocated to the Citizens National Bank location at 228 First Street, in 1912. The bank was associated with commercial development in the Hi-Line region.



### Mane Attraction / Kleen Kut 325 1st Street

In 1892, Joseph Gussenhoven a diversified early business man purchased this lot, which was the location of a Chinese laundry. Gussenhoven held interests in real estate, hardware, implements, lumber, bricks, laundry, coal mining, cigars, wine and liquor. He also owned the Citizen’s Bank Building at one time, published and owned the Hill County Beacon, and was a pioneer gas developer. The current building was constructed soon after the fire and noted as the Gussenhoven Building in the 1913-1916 Polk directories. The Cascade Café occupied the building in the 1950’s. The one side of the building has continuously served as a barbershop/salon for almost 60 years, as it is now Mane Attraction and Kleen Kut. The Western Commercial style architecture is what gives this building architectural significance.



### Scotty’s Ice Cream Shoppe / Almas-MacKenzie Block 327 1st Street

The building was designed by Marion B. Rizzo, a well known northwestern architect, and built for doctors Almas and McKenzie in 1913. The first floor was laid out for retail and display purposes and was occupied by Owl Drug Store. The 1920’s and 1930’s Polk directories note the Owl Drug was still at this location which was also home of the first Havre Clinic with practicing doctors Almas, A.A. Husser, G.A. Jestrab and S.D. Dairymple. Dr. Jestrab practiced medicine at this location in the 1960’s. The building also served as a location for Western Finance Company and Rosella Ross Insurance and Local Finance. For a short time, Montgomery Ward was located in the building in the 1940’s and 1950’s. The building is architecturally significant because of its unusual structural elements that are unique to Havre. The bay window and several distinguishing elements are still intact.



### Holden’s Hot Wheels / Bramble Building 422 1st Street

J.K. Bramble came to Havre from Helena Montana in 1904 and founded the weekly newspaper, The Hill County Democrat, in 1912. The 1915 and 1916

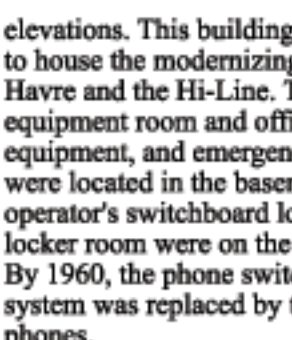


Fenton Directories indicate J.W. Angell and Bramble were officers of the Bramble Adjustment Company offering real estate, collection services, insurance, loans, rentals, security bonds and investments. Bramble continued to maintain his clientele as a lawyer in the Bramble Building Block. Red Goose Store Dry Goods occupied the space in 1929-1931. From 1936 to 1956 the location was home to Hines Motor Supply. The Hill County Journal occupied 422 1/2 in 1929 but the space became the location for a house of prostitution in the 1960’s, managed by a Madame known as “Babe”. It was the last major house of prostitution in Havre operating well into the late 1970’s under the tutelage of a Madame known as “Irene.” The upstairs apartments are intact and still have the original carpet from the 1970’s. One room is decorated in red plush carpet with gold/red flocked wallpaper. The building has historical significance for its interesting history as a house of prostitution and for being home to an auto supply store for over 19 years.



### Mountain Bell Building 200 5th Avenue

The Mountain Bell Building is arguably the most significant modern structure in the region. The Mountain Bell logo is centered over the entry canopy on both the east and north elevations. This building and basement was constructed in 1959 to house the modernizing era of communications systems for Havre and the Hi-Line. The first floor contained the dial equipment room and offices and the heating, ventilating, power equipment, and emergency power plant were located in the basement. The operator’s switchboard lounge and locker room were on the second floor. By 1960, the phone switchboard system was replaced by the direct dial phones.



### 3rd Avenue

The homestead boom and the creation of Hill County sparked the growth of businesses and industries. Many of Havre’s big commercial businesses like the Havre Commercial Company, the Lou Lucke Company, the F.A. Buttrey Company and the H. Earl Clack Company, were located on 3rd Avenue. These companies capitalized on the large number of people arriving or passing through town. New industries and businesses continued to develop and meet the needs of the growing community. These companies expanded while cementing Havre’s place as the regional hub in north-central Montana.



### Wolfer’s Diner & Havre Montana Realty/ Chestnut Building 126 & 128 3rd Avenue

Frank Chestnut came to Havre in 1891. In 1892, he married, started his family of eight children, and bought three lots on the west side of Third Avenue from the alley south to Second Street. He constructed the Chestnut Block on the northwest corner of Third Avenue and Second Street in 1901, as a rental/lease building. Since it was built, it has housed nine drug stores in 27 years. There were also clothing stores, meat markets, a jewelry store, a grocery store, a general household goods store, and Woolworths located here. It has been used as a rental/lease property for over 100 years. North of the Chestnut Block and attached to it is the Chestnut Building. When it was first built in 1903, it had only one level and was leased to the Havre Commercial Company for a men’s clothing department. The Elk’s had their club room on the top floor after it was added in February of 1912. The building was sold out of the Frank Chestnut family in 1982.



### Flynn Realty / Hill County State Bank 201 3rd Avenue

The Hill County State Bank was organized in 1924. The Bank took over a portion of the assets of the Security State Bank and liquidated certificates payable over the next few years. E. T. Broadwater and H.W. Stringfellow were early directors. In 1946 Citizens Bank was organized, purchasing the assets and assuming the liabilities of the Hill County State Bank, and moved into the building.



### Davison / Flynn Block / Praude Block 205 - 215 3rd Avenue

Businessman Henry Stringfellow owned these lots during the first decades of the twentieth century. At this location at the corner of Second Street and Third Avenue, Stringfellow was the president and manager of the Havre Commercial Company (HCC) Department Store, the largest store between St. Paul, Minnesota and Spokane, Washington on the Great Northern Railway. In 1906, a severe storm called the “Havre Cyclone” nearly totally destroyed the second floor of the HCC, but repairs were completed and he soon was back in competition with his biggest rival, F.A. Buttrey, located across the street. Stringfellow retired from active management in the 1930s. In 1938, the HCC building was nearly destroyed by fire despite the efforts of the fire departments from both Chinook and Havre. In 1941, the building that is presently at this location was constructed by James Sherry to replace the old HCC. Havre Drug, the oldest company in the city, occupied the area at the corner and Black’s Jewelry, Reynolds Grocery, and Pederson Bros. Meats, occupied the remaining locations. This building is significant historically because it was the only building within the survey area that was constructed during World War II.



### Pizza Pro / Clack Building 126 4th Avenue

Constructed in 1913 by H. Earl Clack, the Clack Building was originally a 60 by 140 feet three-story building that was partially destroyed by a fire on February 10, 1927. That same year, the building was reconstructed to two stories of white firebrick and extended to the alley. The Clack Building housed several of his businesses including a hardware, implement, paint and auto parts department in the front. The seed and feed department was located mid section and the offices and fireproof vault of the H. Earl Clack Company were located in the rear. The second floor had fourteen apartments with gas heat, electricity, baths, restrooms, disappearing beds, and built-in furniture. Clack came to Montana from Fort Worth, Texas in 1899 to start a transfer business with only two horses and a wagon. The business quickly expanded to include feed and hay. Clack built the first grain elevator in northern Montana in 1913 that would soon grow into a chain of elevators that handled over two million bushels of grain a year. In 1918 he entered the petroleum industry that he devoted most of his time to during the dry years. He opened the first station in Havre in 1919. He ran the only plant in the state that manufactured cup and axle grease at a capacity of two tons a day. His oil and distribution firm operated in four states and had about 200 petroleum outlets that earned \$2,000,000 annually with 101 employees.



### IOOF Building 230 4th Avenue

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was chartered in Havre on April 17, 1895 and formally recognized as the IOOF Assiniboine Lodge No. 56. An article in the Plaindealer, September 27, 1919, stated the IOOF planned to build a three-story lodge and move into their new building the year of construction. The building served as home to many organizations over the years including veterans and several railroad associations. Since 1982 the building has been occupied by several businesses and is currently for sale.



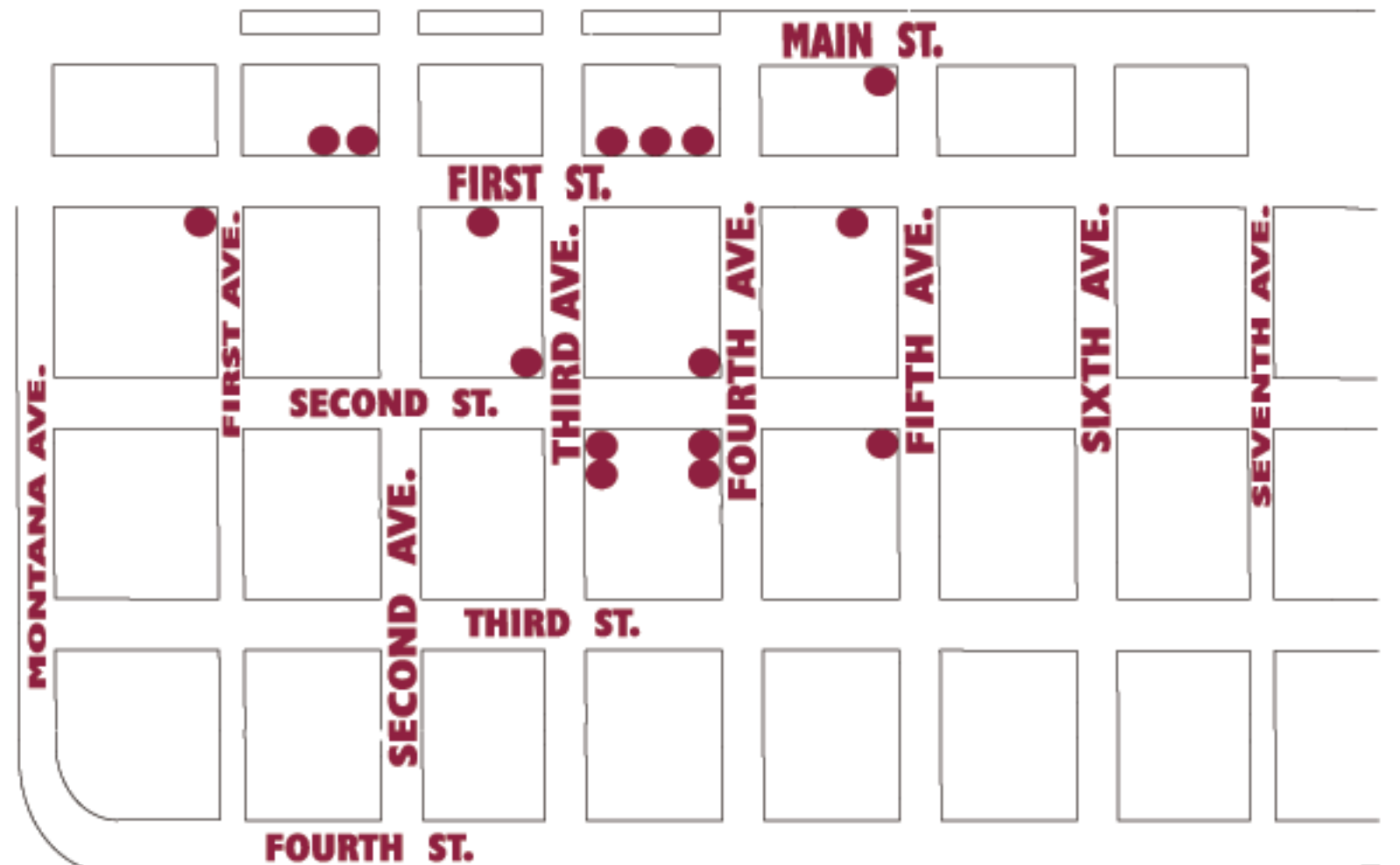
### Heimbrecht Building/ Brainerd & Grady Building 224 4th Avenue

This building was owned and constructed by the Presbyterian Church in 1901. It was built as an investment project by the forward thinking board of directors, H. Earl Clack, Philip Brainerd, and Carrie S. Wright. Brainerd, a photographer, established Brainerd Studio in 1912 and purchased the building in 1917. Brainerd retired to California/ Oregon and sold his portion of the building to Myrtle Fuller in 1926. She owned and also operated a photography studio at the 224 Fourth Avenue address. In a March 10, 1926 article of the Havre News Promoter, Fuller announced she would continue the services of enlarging, coloring and eight hour Kodak finishing. In December of 1945, Verne Heimbrecht went to work as a photographer for Fuller. According to a January 11, 1948 article in the Havre Daily News, Fuller sold the north half of the property and above apartments to Heimbrecht. Verne’s son, Steve Heimbrecht, eventually took over and has operated the photography business since the 1980’s. A neon art deco sign, the only one on Fourth Avenue, was installed in the 1940’s bearing the name of Fuller “PHOTO” “Studio”. “Fullmer” was replaced with Heimbrecht when the business changed hands. The south half of the building, at 228 Fourth Avenue, was occupied by several businesses over the years. The Havre Credit Bureau has been at this locale since 1998.



### Grigg’s Printing / Northern Grocery Company 2 5th Avenue

In 1916, the Northern Grocery Company constructed its building at 2 Fifth Avenue to warehouse their wholesale grocery business. T.C. Penny, former proprietor of the Orpheum Theater, created the business in 1912. He believed that Havre was the logical wholesale distributing center for a radius of several hundred miles. His intent was to eliminate freight charges added to goods that were shipped by rail through Havre to Great Falls and reshipped back to Havre. In 1919, the company bought out the Pioneer Grocery making the Northern Grocery Company the largest wholesale grocery outlet. In 1920, a fire on the second floor of the warehouse building caused considerable damage to the goods also damaged by firefighter’s water. The fire burned out power and phone lines causing that portion of the city to be shut off for several hours. In 1936, a large garage was constructed to permit loading trucks and their delivery services to be conducted under cover, the same year the business was purchased by the Nash Finch Company, a wholesale house selling nationally known brands such as Del Monte, Libby, Nash Coffee, Pabst beer, etc. The company was based in Grand Forks, North Dakota with 57 wholesale houses. It ceased operation in Havre around 1950.



## Downtown Business Map Havre, Montana